

Open to ^{the} New *Shades*



Chumphon



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Chumphon dates back to 1098, and the Goat Symbol has long been recognised the province's emblem. There are several theories to the origin of the name, perhaps an adaptation of the word "Chumnupol", meaning a merging of people, because it was a frontier of marching. Another theory is that it derives from the word "Chumnumphon" which means groups blessing, because before marching, commanders usually prayed to God to bring them the victory in war. Yet another theory is that the name derives from banyan tree, also became a symbol of Chumphon.



Chumphon



1 Muko Chumphon National Park



Within this national park are many beautiful islands and beaches, one of which is over 100-km. long. The Tourist Information Centre is located in the middle of a mangrove forest and connected by raised boardwalk for nature study of plants and wild animals. Interesting attractions within the National Park include the following.

Ko Maphrao (Maphrao Island)

A small 100-metre long white sandy island is 1 km. from Sai Ri beach with a pretty coral reef on the west side.

Ko Mattra (Mattra Island)

A large island with a rocky beach great for snorkelling. Accommodation and restaurants available.



Ko Lang Ka Jiew (Lang Ka Jiew Island)

This uninhabited island is a bird's nest concessionary island, a relaxing getaway 8 km. from Thung Ma Kham bay.

Ko Lava (Lava Island)

A small-size island which near Maphrao Island with a very pretty fringing reef, great for snorkelling and Scuba diving. Visitors can book a tour at Pharadonphap beach and Thung Makham Noi bay.

Ko Thalu (Thalu Island)

A small limestone island about 13 km. away from Chumphon estuary. Cavities have formed in the limestone above and below the water, making it possible to swim to the opposite side. In March and April, sea birds nest here.

Ko Ngam Yai and Ko Ngam Noi (Ngam Yai Island and Ngam Noi Island) In the southern part of Thung Wua Laen bay, 17 km. from the coast, this is a bird's nest concessionary island and one of the park's best for Scuba diving.



2 Hat Thung Wua Laen

Hat Thung Wua Laen (Thung Wua Laen Beach)
Located in Tambon Sa Pli, around 16 km. from Chumphon city, is the famous beach of Amphoe Pathio. The beautiful white sandy beach with slopes gently into crystal clear water, great for swimming.



3 Phato Canal Water Rafting

Phato Canal Water Rafting Water rafting begins with Ton Nam canal where you have an opportunity to see wild animals such as dusky leaf monkeys and hornbills. While here, visit the nearby orchards and sample the local durian, coffee and mangosteen.



4 Ko Ran Ped and Ko Ran Kai



There are several great dive sites along Chumphon's coast offering spectacular underwater landscapes and abundant marine life. Among them is a Ko Rad Ped and Ko Ran Kai, where divers often encounter whale sharks.

Dive sites around Ko Ran Ped are 20m deep while Ko Ran Kai is 5-15m deep. There is also a beautiful underwater cave, coral wall and a large rock-bed blanketed with sea fans, sea whips, sponges as well as black corals. Crystal clear and shallow water allows sunlight to penetrate and illuminate sea bed where large colony of purple-colour sea anemones occupy the whole area. Among the abundant marine life divers will see butterfly fish, damselfish, turtles, and yellow tailed barracuda. More great diving can be experienced at Ko Ngam Yai and Ko Ngam Noi which have amazing biodiversity and very pretty coral. Ko Ngam Yai is even more remarkable with a rock cliff that rises 100 m. resembling the shape of a hand.

5 Blue Crab Community Research Centre

Blue Crab Community Research Centre This co-operative aquaculture research centre in Pathiu district aims to replenish the dwindling population of blue crabs along the Chumphon coast. The system is fairly simple. Co-op members agree to deposit their gravid crabs (pregnant crabs) into the crab bank's rearing cages during the spawning season from May to June. Once the female crabs lay their eggs in the bank, they are sold to local markets and the money is deposited in the community's bank account. Until they are old enough to be released into the sea, juvenile crabs are raised at the bank in their cages. Based on the number of crabs deposited in the bank, local fishermen are given a quota to catch more blue crabs under strict guidelines. Tourists can visit the centre to learn about this community on a day trip that also includes activities such as releasing crabs, rafting along the sea and mangrove forest, planting 'Pathiu' yellow rice, and watching fireflies.





How To Get There

By Car

From Bangkok take Highway No. 35 (Thonburi-Pak Thor route) then Highway No. 4 (Phetchakasem Road) at Amphoe Pak Thor via Phetchaburi and Prachuap Khiri Khan before arriving at Pathom Phon Intersection. Turn left to Chumphon city centre by taking Highway No. 327 for another 8 km. Total distance is at 463 km.

By Bus

There is a daily air-conditioned bus from Bangkok departing the Southern Bus Terminal on Borommaratchachonnani Road. Contact:

- The Transport Co., Ltd Tel. +66 2894 6122 or visit the website: www.transport.co.th.
- Chok Anant Tour Co., Ltd. Tel. +66 2894 6902, Chumphon Office Tel. +66 7751 1480, +66 7751 1757.
- Suwannati Tour Co., Ltd. Tel. +66 2894 6066-7, Chumphon Office Tel. +66 7750 4901, +66 7750 1535

By Train

A daily express Service departs Bangkok's Hualamphong Railway Station. Tel: +66 2220 4444, 1690 or Chumphon Station Tel. +66 7751 1103 www.railway.co.th.

By Air

From Don Mueang Airport

- Thai AirAsia Tel. +66 2515 9999, Chumphon Office Tel. +66 7759 1267 www.airasia.com
- Nok Air Tel. 1318, +66 2088 8955 Chumphon Office Tel. +66 7759 1121 www.nokair.com.



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